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April 30, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Jocelyn Boyd, Chief Clerk/Administrator
South Carolina Public Service Commission
Synergy Business Park, The Saluda Building
101 Executive Center Drive
Columbia, SC 29210

**RE: Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC for Adjustments in Electric
Rate Schedules and Tariffs and Request for Accounting Order
Docket No.: 2018-318-E.**

Dear Ms. Boyd:

On behalf of Duke Energy Progress, LLC ("DEP" or "the Company"), I am writing to respond to the April 29, 2019 letter from the South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation ("Farm Bureau"). In response to the Farm Bureau letter we would like to provide some perspective on DEP's response to the concerns raised by the Farm Bureau and the farming community at the night hearings in this case.

DEP witness Steve Wheeler testified at some length at the evidentiary hearing on the issues raised by farmers and the Farm Bureau at the night hearings. See Transcript Vol. 4, pp. 740-746, 752-760, 766. Wheeler explained that the Company had reviewed the farm accounts that are currently being served on the Medium General Service ("MGS") rate and found a total of 76 accounts. Those accounts were then reviewed and it was determined that 59 of them were eligible and would benefit from being moved to a different rate schedule, either Small General Service or the Seasonal Intermittent rate which was established largely to benefit seasonal power users including farmers. Wheeler also explained that the 17 remaining accounts on the MGS rate were the largest farming accounts on the DEP system in South Carolina with average billings in the range of \$800 per month. Wheeler explained that because of the usage levels of these accounts the increased Basic Facilities Charge would still only represent approximately 2.5% of the bills paid by that group. Notably, the variable portion of the bill is lower because of the higher Basic Facilities Charge.

Wheeler testified about DEP's efforts to communicate with those of its farming customers who will benefit from moving to a different rate schedule. The Company has reached out to those people and will continue to provide assistance to those and other farming customers. DEP has also designated Andy Jones, a Business Solutions Manager focused on South Carolina customers, to serve as a dedicated point of contact for the Farm Bureau and the farming community. The Company



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hopes and expects that the designation of a specific point of contact will improve communications and assist farming customers to find the best rate.

Please let me know if there are questions about this letter and thank you for considering our response to the Farm Bureau letter.

Yours truly,

Frank R. Ellerbe, III

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cc: Parties of Record (via email)
M. John Bowen, Jr., Esquire (via email)
Heather Shirley Smith, Deputy General Counsel (via email)